

## Mobilization of livestock research and extension for food security and poverty alleviation in Mozambique

*Working together towards better livelihoods through livestock: the example of Zambeze-1*



Zambeze-1 is located within the Mukumbura administrative post (Magoé district, Tete). There are 20 project beneficiaries in this community: 14 men and 6 women. Most of them are crop farmers that also keep goats and some keep cattle. A few don't have animals yet, but are planning to keep them. As in the other project communities, lack of animal feeding in the dry season and high goat mortality mostly due to poor housing were the main constraints faced in goat keeping.

Lead by Mr Motsi, the community based animal health worker, and with technical input from the project, this group has shown the potential of working together in achieving a common goal: better livelihoods through livestock.

"Before this project, we never had access to improved technologies on goat husbandry. We used to do what our parents did"

Although some of the group members participated in the training on dry season feeding techniques held in 2010; the real breakthrough in the project was the construction of improved goat shelters in 2011.



The group decided that the first shelter should be constructed at Mr Motsi's place because he is a role model in the community and his house is near a local road ensuring visibility of the shelter. All group members contributed to its construction: the men cut trees and transported them; the women cut the grass for the roofing.



After that, 9 more shelters were built and 4 are still under construction. It is estimated that around 500 persons have enquired about the improved shelter

and how they can also benefit from the project. Group members supported 5 goat keepers from nearby (non-project) communities with the construction of improved shelters. The group also built a treatment corridor for goats and a forage tree nursery.

"At the beginning we didn't know if there would be a change...but now we can see that our animals die less and they are healthier"

Through the project activities, the group members realized that selling healthy goats on a regular basis can be an important source of income for their families.